

NOV 23 1993

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of:)
Policies and Rules Implementing) CC Docket No. 93-22
the Telephone Disclosure and) RM-7990
Dispute Resolution Act)

**COMMENTS OF THE
UNITED STATES TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION
ON PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION**

The United States Telephone Association (USTA) respectfully submits these comments on the petitions for reconsideration that have been filed with the Commission for relief from the Commission's recently adopted rules addressing 900 pay-per-call services. Three petitions were placed on Public Notice on November 8 at 58 Fed.Reg. 59265. The three petitions addressed here by USTA seek additional time to comply with the rules (Petition of US WEST), seek relief from the burden of including a statement for callers in every bill that includes a charge for 900 calls (Petition of MCI), and seek the ability to address blocking through state tariffs and references in federal access tariffs (Petition of Southwestern Bell). USTA supports each petition.

On October 25, USTA submitted comments related to the requests by interexchange carriers for extensions of time regarding the Commission's rules also at issue here. The outline of concerns set out by USTA apply equally here. Those comments are incorporated by reference.

MCI's petition addresses monthly billing statement requirements. Under Section 64.1510(a)(2)(i) through (iii), as of November 1, 1993, a common carrier

(providing both a number and billing/collection services) was to assure that, in any monthly billing to telephone subscribers that includes charges for any interstate 900 service, a disclosure statement is included with four items on it: that such charges are for non-communications services; that neither local nor long distance services can be disconnected for non-payment; that 900 number blocking is available upon request; and that access to pay-per-call services may be involuntarily blocked for failure to pay legitimate charges. The Commission has specifically identified the carriers subject to Section 64.1510(a). Those carriers are interexchange carriers. See Report and Order at ¶ 14, note 27. The specific requirements in Section 64.1510(a) are the source of the MCI petition. USTA supports the MCI petition, and supports relief for all affected carriers.

USTA also supports the US WEST petition. That petition sought additional time for overall compliance. In light of the pleadings filed in this matter, including USTA's, and the interim action taken by the Commission, no extended discussion is required. That interim time may require reconsideration in light of events. Additional time may be required by some carriers for those items for which the Commission did not grant an extension. As USTA stated in its filing on October 25, the Commission's Report and Order was extensive, running 44 pages and 109 paragraphs, leaving a number of activities for carriers to complete. USTA has received literally hundreds of calls from members concerning the 900 pay-per-call Bulletin it prepared. One fact that USTA found significant in dealing with USTA members is that the exchange carriers had received little communication from the


interexchange carriers even as November 1 approached. The exchange carriers should not be held responsible for any noncompliance, and the reality is that some interexchange carriers probably still need more time, too.

Finally, USTA supports the petition of Southwestern Bell. Southwestern Bell's suggestion will assure that blocking terms and conditions will be consistent and therefore reduce the possibility of confusion for customers. The average residential customer will look first to the state tariff, anyway.

The petitions of MCI, U S WEST and Southwestern Bell should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

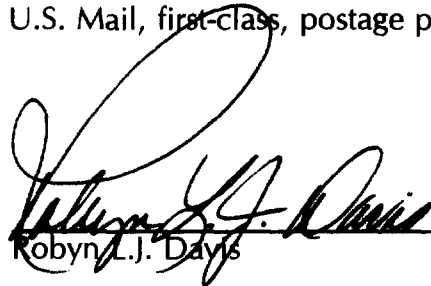
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November 23, 1993

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Robyn L.J. Davis, do certify that on November 23, 1993 copies of the
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